MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it that no regard is being paid to works of a like nature, which require the immediate attention of Government, while there has been a surplus of about Rs. 4 lakhs in the budget for the current year?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a hypothetical proposition which the Government are not now in a position to answer.

Widening of the Science College—Union Club Road.

13. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state what further steps have been taken in widening, etc., of the Science College—Union Club road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The work has been budgeted for in the current year. It is reported that a survey has been prepared showing the widening needed. The estimate for the work is awaited from the Chief Engineer.

Public Tanks and Wells in Nagercoil Municipality.

14. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Nagercoil Municipality passed a resolution to the effect that all streets, public tanks and wells within the municipal limits should be thrown open for use to all classes of citizens irrespective of caste or creed?

(*b*) If so, what action was taken in the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The resolution was cancelled by Government under Section 248 of the Municipal Regulation.

Period of the existing Council of the Nagercoil Municipality.

15. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the date of termination of the Municipal Council of Nagercoil?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the present Council has been living past its statutory period? If so, what is the reason and who is responsible for it?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Although the present Council completed its term of three years on the 1st Edavam, 1100, it will, under Section 13 (3) of the Municipal Regulation, continue to act until the constitution of the succeeding Council.

(*b*) Yes. The delay is due to the extension of the limits of the town of Nagercoil in 1100, the consequent increase in the number of electoral wards and the formalities necessary for the conduct of elections with reference to these changes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What was the real extension of the Nagercoil Municipality, which led to the increase of the wards?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not understand the spirit of the word '*extension*' in the supplementary question.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I mean '*extension in area.*'

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The area has increased from three to four square miles. There has thus been an increase of one square mile.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the increase in the number of houses?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The number of houses has increased from 9,000 to 10,000, or by 1,000.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know, still further, whether such necessary arrangements and formalities for the conduct of elections could not have been made before the termination of the statutory period of the Municipality?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The recommendation for the extension of the town came in just before the election time and the wards had to be reconstituted. All this could not be done sooner.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that such contigencies could not have been foreseen long before?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is for the Municipal Council to consider. Government received the recommendation from the Municipal Council and action was taken as soon as the recommendation was received.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government think that such extension of the period of the Municipality operates detrimentally to the general interest of the Municipality?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Even as it is, the Municipality is legally constituted until the new Council is formed. It can effectively work.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): By virtue of the controlling powers vested in the Government, are the Government justified in not looking after the interests of the Municipalities?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It has not come to the notice of Government that the Municipality has suffered by its continuance as at present constituted.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are not the Government aware of the series of petitions that have been sent to them?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not just now in a position to answer that question.

Testing of the Competency of Motor Drivers and the Reliability of Motor Cars.

16. MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who the present authority appointed is, to test the competency or otherwise of drivers and the reliability of motor vehicles, for purposes of issuing driving licenses and permits; and

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